



Love INC  
Love In the Name of Christ

# Love Letters

November/December 2010

## From the Executive Director, Gail Kraft



### Core Value 4

#### “We Value Unity of the Body of Christ”

How does Core Value 4 work itself out here at Love INC of Muskegon? On any day here at Love INC, we have staff and volunteers that represent as many as 15 denominations. The same is true at our New Directions Life Skills ministry sites. In John 17, Jesus prayed that the world might believe and know that God sent him. He prayed this in relation to the unity among and between those who minister. Unity then becomes a way for Christians to come together with the power of persuasion that brings reconciliation, hope and healing to a hurting world. Love INC brings together persons from diverse church histories and some religious stereotypes to meet face to face with Jesus Christ between them. Jesus Christ prays for the unity of Love INC workers so that the world may believe and know that the same God who sent and loved Jesus wants the circle of that knowing and believing expanded. We help with the basics but we also pray with and for people and connect them to local churches for their Spiritual needs as well. If you would like to unify with us by offering your diverse background and gifts, please contact me at 773-3448.

At this time of year, we pause to say thank you to all of you, our supporters and friends. May your Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year holidays be blessed.

Gail Kraft  
Executive Director

### Love INC Core Values

Love INC has 10 core values that define who we are and why we do what we do. The core values are:

1. We are **Christian**. Everything we think, say, and do is in the name of Christ.
2. **Prayer** is an integral part of who we are.
3. We follow Christ's example of valuing the **poor and needy**.
4. We value **unity** of the Body of Christ.
5. We value **transformation** in the lives of people and communities
6. We value **churches** living out the two great commandments to love God and love their neighbors.
7. We value building Christ-like **relationships**.
8. We value the **connectedness** of the Love INC movement.
9. We model **excellence**.
10. We value continually **maturing** in our capacity to meet people's needs.

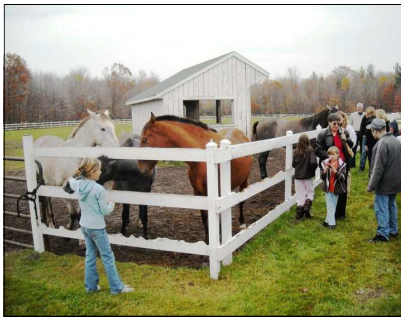
*Our mission is transforming lives In the Name of Christ through the church*



## HAMPTON GREEN FARM OPENS ITS “BARN DOORS” FOR LOVE INC

Saturday, October 23rd was a very special day for Love INC! The owners of Hampton Green Farm hosted an open house which included tours of their stallion, mare & foal barns, a wonderful Dressage performance by Olympic-trained horses and a fantastic meal of Paella prepared authentically in the ground by Chef Fred Boyer. In spite of the rain,

over 300 people enjoyed the day, demonstrating wonderful support of Love INC and its ministries. The Boyer family has already offered to sponsor another event next year, so if you were unable to attend, watch our newsletter next year for details!



“What a wonderful turn out. We had a fantastic time and sat with people we didn’t know but had a great time of fellowship with plenty of laughter. What a beautiful place and how wonderful that they were willing to share it with us. *Oh, yes, the meal was over the top...they gave their best of everything...what a beautiful thing! Their kindness was amazing!!!* “ ~ Terri

### Board News

Love INC thanks Ric Scott for completing six full years as a board director. Being on a board is not always easy and Ric served Love INC with what we call the 4 W’s: Work, Witness, Wisdom and Wealth.

Thank you Ric for your dedication to our Lord and to working for Him through Love INC of Muskegon.

We also regretfully accepted the resignation of Venettie Poston, whose obligations to work and family had to come first at this time. We hope to see both of these outstanding people back at some time in the future.

### EARLY YEAR-END GIVING PLANNING

It’s hard to believe, but tax time is just around the corner and it’s not too early to start thinking about your year-end contributions. You’ve been a tremendous support to Love INC and here are a few creative donation ideas from the Community Foundation of Muskegon County, not just for this year, but in the years to come:

- ♥ Cash
- ♥ Mutual Fund Shares
- ♥ Life Estates (home deeds)
- ♥ Publicly traded stock
- ♥ Real Estate
- ♥ Life Insurance Policies
- ♥ IRA/Retirement Plan Assets

Please be sure to seek the advice of a financial professional. Your generosity will ensure Love INC’s ability to be the hands and feet of Jesus to people in need for many years!

Check us out on our website at [loveincofmuskegon.com](http://loveincofmuskegon.com)  
Become a fan on facebook at Love INC of Muskegon  
Watch us on Comcast Channel 7. Call us for days and times.

# Love INC News

## Orchard View Congregational Church Youth Group Participate in a 30 Hour Famine

Thanks to the Orchard View Congregational Church Youth who participated in a 30 hour famine recently and raised \$685.00 to donate to Love INC. What a blessing to Love INC and those we serve. Those who participated included Jacob Duttlinger, Kristi Wagenmaker, Brittany Wagenmaker, Nicole Wagenmaker, and Scott Wagenmaker.



## Clearinghouse News by the Numbers September/October 2010

Actual Services Provided: 1,610  
 Number of individuals impacted: 3,193  
 Value of Services Provided year to date: \$862,504

### Breakdown of Services by numbers:

Food Requests Filled: 550  
 Clothing Request Filled: 72  
 Personal Care Requests Filled: 463  
 Household Requests Filled: 47  
 Baby Needs Requests Filled: 42

New Directions Class Participants: 97

Total volunteer time estimated at 3,205 hours!  
 Total value of Gift in Kind (non-cash donations, etc.): \$22,650

Love INC partners with area churches to provide 16 food pantries, 2 personal care pantries, a household goods pantry, 2 clothing closets, a crib ministry, a baby pantry, a layette ministry a twin bed ministry and Life Skills classes.

**DONATE ONLINE** — [www.LoveIncofMuskegon.com](http://www.LoveIncofMuskegon.com)

**YOU** make a difference in the lives of people in need.

Each need brought to Love INC represents an opportunity to connect with one of God's children, to bring a message of God's grace. **We always urge everyone to give to their home church first.**

- I want to help with a monthly pledge of \_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_ \$75 \_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_ Other
- I want to become a Millennium Partner by donating \$1,000 or more annually
- I would like to donate \$\_\_\_\_\_ in honor of \_\_\_\_\_
- I would like to donate \$\_\_\_\_\_ in memory of \_\_\_\_\_
- I want to be a Prayer partner! Please send me the monthly Prayer Requests via:  Email  U.S. Mail



**Mail to:**

Love INC of  
 Muskegon County  
 2735 E. Apple Ave.  
 Suite A  
 Muskegon, MI 49442  
 Phone Number:  
 231.773.3448

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 Church Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

**2010 SUPPORTIVE CHURCHES**

**Sept-Oct**

- Allen Ave. CRC
- Bridge Bible Church
- Calvary Church
- Calvary Bible Church
- Calvin CRC
- Church of God United
- Fifth Reformed Church
- First Presbyterian Church
- Fruitland Baptist Church
- Gateway Church
- McGraft Memorial Congregational Church
- Orchard View Congregational Church
- Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church
- Prince of Peace Parish
- Westwood Reformed Church



**MEMORIALS**

Ralph Bylsma from Gary & Sharon Ranson  
 Karen Rees from Thelma Bergman

**In Memory of David Morell**

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Shoreline Insurance Agency                               | Ralph & Marva Carlson                 |
| Richard & Jane Christy                                   | Alfred Dabrowski                      |
| Ruth Hogston   | Elvira Dykstra                        |
| Daniel & Louise Hvizdos                                  | Laurel Ziegler                        |
| Clyde & Penny Krepps                                     | Linda Kaare                           |
| Bill & Anne Vandervelde                                  | Gary & Margaret Tidball               |
| Linda & Roland Wikman                                    | Chet & Fern Nienhuis                  |
| Mona Shores Public Schools High School Hospitality Group | William & Annajean Boukamp            |
| Anonymous Donor  | Richard & Patricia Flickema           |
| Bruce & Harriet Jones                                    | Diane M. Morell Siniff                |
| Bob & Donna Rieckmann                                    | Alex & Genie Hopkins                  |
| Arnold & Mary Turner and children                        | Dan & Nancy Bradshaw and Otto Allison |
| Joanne Bolema  | Donald & Kay Slater                   |
| Thomas & Judy Archambault                                | James & Joan Doney                    |
| Donna Siniff   | Michael & Kay Olthoff                 |
| Byron & Judith Turnquist                                 | Patrick & Camille Gabris              |
| William & Marilyn Wikman                                 | Richard & June Grover                 |
| Richard & Shirley Grammel                                | Thomas J. Sanocki                     |
| Gail S. Morell   | Viola Christopherson                  |
| Don & Margaret Morell                                    | David & Barbara Kendall               |
| Thomas & Joyce Keson                                     | Grace Todd                            |
| Gregory & Judith Deweerd                                 | Alfred Dabrowski                      |
| Garry & Charlotte Olson                                  | Joel & Kay VanderWall                 |
| Catherine Butterfield                                    | Mary Lou Klaus                        |
| Virginia Krautheim                                       | Arthur Theuret                        |
| Carl & Robin Schwarz                                     | Mr. & Mrs. Robert Specker             |
| Neil & Diane Mullally                                    | Dr. & Mrs. James Hilton               |
| Mr. & Mrs. Richard Hart                                  | Meagan Linder & Robert Graves         |
| Judy Linder  | Colleen Day                           |
|  | David & Evelyn Fiet                   |

**Memorial gifts in Mr. Morell's name totaled over \$2,000, and will bless many people in Muskegon County—a fitting legacy for a life of service to others.**

**Volunteer Opportunities**

**Do you like to shop for Internet deals?** How about “shopping for Love INC”? Donors are telling us about fantastic bid sites where they are able to purchase many useful items for as low as \$3 a box! Unfortunately, Love INC staff is so busy managing calls, working with clients, etc., that we don't have time to shop these deals. Please call Gail Kraft or Yvonne Ramos at 231.773.3448 if you are able to bless our ministry this way.

**Do you have a group of “handymen and women”** just looking for small projects to do? Then call Love INC to see how you and/or your group can help residents in Muskegon County with small repair projects! Clients will be screened by Love INC and will be expected to pay for any materials needed or Love INC will attempt to get donations for them. Call 231.773.3448 and ask for Gail.

**Upcoming New Directions Workshops:**

- |  |                                      |        |
|--|--------------------------------------|--------|
| <b><u>Ways to Increase Income Workshop</u></b><br>(1 Class)<br>Forest Park Covenant Church<br>3815 Henry St. | December 2, 2010<br>Thursday Evening | 7:00pm |
| <b><u>Decision Making Workshop</u></b><br>(1 Class)<br>Forest Park Covenant Church<br>3815 Henry St.         | December 9, 2010<br>Thursday Evening | 7:00pm |

**Please call (231)773-3448 for more information**

## Project Ramp

Project Ramp Crews built a total of 24 ramps this year. Thank you to all of our crews for their dedicated service to our community to help those in need. The crews are as follows:



N. Side Lions—7; Alcoa-Howmet-6, Kaydon -5; Project Serve-2; Eagle Alloy-1; Jack Byers Family-1; Fruitport Congregational Church-1; and Cal Jacobs, Dick Meyer, Bruce Baker, & John Schuitema-1. Without these volunteers, this program wouldn't be possible. Project Ramp serves all of

Muskegon County for those in need of handicap ramps.



A special thank you to Ron Hayward who has been drawing the ramps for many years.

## Christmas Store for Clients

CHRISTMAS is just around the corner! It's not too early to start thinking of the new and gently-used gift donations for Love INC's Christmas store. A huge success for the last three years, clients are able to purchase gifts at pennies on the dollar; what a tremendous way to give dignity to those who would otherwise struggle to provide gifts for their family. Response to last year's 'store' was tremendous!

Clients truly appreciated being able to shop for their families! We need clothing, wrapping paper, tape, bows and gift items for all ages.

Donations may be dropped off at Love INC's office – 2735 E. Apple Ave. or call 773.3448, for more information.

## A Budgeting Love Story

*Written by Bruce Baker, Angela's Mentor*

Angela has almost completed her goal to save \$1,000 toward the down payment on her new Habitat Home. She also has been enjoying her receptionist work at the Habitat office. She is interested in pursuing this type of work for future employment. She is looking forward to her home dedication in October and has reworked her budget to reflect her future estimated expenses. We briefly discussed the following topics: current and future budget, the importance of continuing to work on increasing her emergency fund, to start thinking about home owners insurance, perhaps the need for some life insurance in the future, and to start thinking about putting a small amount of money away regularly for retirement.

She has the big advantage of being debt-free, having paid off all doctor bills, etc. She is current on all expenses and has a positive attitude about the future.

## Welcome to Our Newest Volunteers!

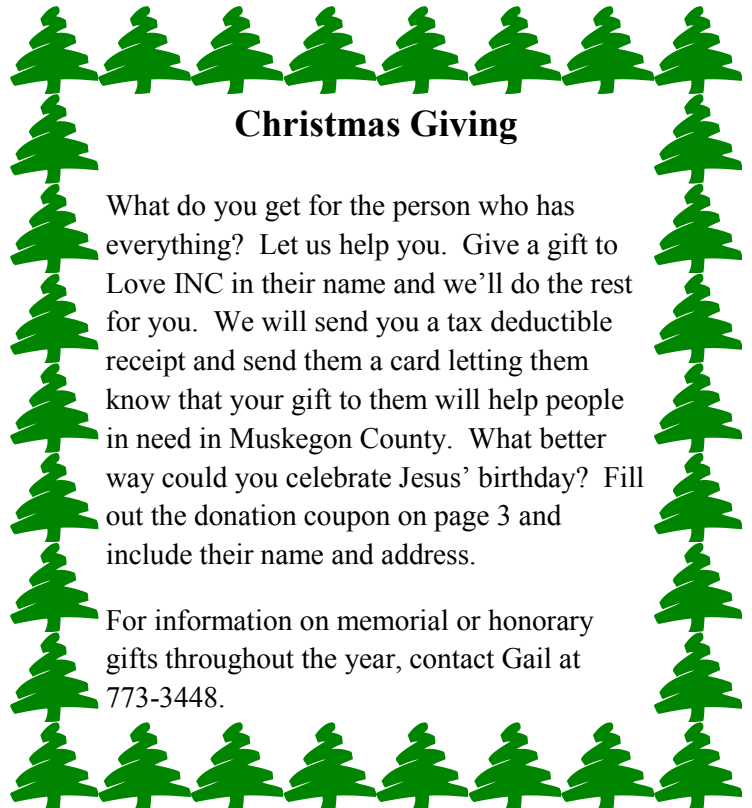
**Wendy Hodgin**—Office and Marketing Volunteer from The Journey Church.

**Collett Combs**—Special projects/HMIS volunteer from Christian Life Center Church.

## Christmas Giving

What do you get for the person who has everything? Let us help you. Give a gift to Love INC in their name and we'll do the rest for you. We will send you a tax deductible receipt and send them a card letting them know that your gift to them will help people in need in Muskegon County. What better way could you celebrate Jesus' birthday? Fill out the donation coupon on page 3 and include their name and address.

For information on memorial or honorary gifts throughout the year, contact Gail at 773-3448.



**Board of Directors**

Sherry Becker, Covenant Life CRC, Board President  
 Dick Nolan, Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, Vice President  
 Megan Doss, Covenant Life CRC, Secretary  
 Tina Root, Covenant Community Reformed Church, Treasurer  
 Ric Scott, Calvin CRC  
 Leon VanRees, Bethany CRC  
 Pastor Brian Kyle, Fruitland Evan. Cov. Church  
 Bruce Duiser, Unity Reformed Church  
 Geoffrey Nolan, Prince of Peace Catholic Church  
 Tedd Bryson, Forest Park Covenant Church, Ministries Chaplain

**Office Staff**

Gail Kraft, Calvin CRC, Executive Director  
 Yvonne Ramos, First Free Methodist, Clearinghouse Coordinator/  
 Resource Developer  
 Alicia Petty, Greater Harvest Missionary Baptist,  
 Relational Ministries Coordinator  
 Chris Zeedyk, Unity Reformed Church, Administrative Assistant

**Senior Program Staff (Title V)**

Marilyn Brewster

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